

# JOINT MOUNTAIN WARFARE OPERATIONS AND TRAINING WORKSHOP—QUICK LOOK



# Workshop Caveats



- **Workshop was a thorough “first look” at Mountain Warfare Operations and Training**
- **Except for SOCOM and JFCOM, no other CoComs were represented**
- **Briefing is a summary of the working group results**
  - **Serves to document subject matter expertise from the units/organizations represented**
  - **Will need to be vetted through the Services**



# \*Workshop Topics

- **#1--Identify current mountain warfare training capabilities across the Services and our coalition partners**
- **#2—Identify established mountain warfare training requirements as well as requirements not currently being addressed**
- **#3—Identify training/training facility gaps between warfighter requirements identified in #2 and the capabilities from #1**
- **#4—Use concept mapping to develop solutions/investments which resolve the gaps identified in #3. Focus on how best to integrate current and future mountain warfare training capabilities into Joint National Training Capability mission rehearsal exercises**

**\* Note--Compile separate lists for each topic which address the Operational and Tactical levels of warfare**



# Topic #1—Current Capabilities



## US Marine Corps

- **Mountain Warfare Training Center  
(Bridgeport, CA)**

## Navy

- **Basic Cold Weather Maritime Training Course  
(Kodiak, AK)**



# Topic #1—Current Capabilities



## US Army

- **Army Warfare Training Center**  
**(Camp Ethan Allen, Jericho, Vermont)**
- **High Altitude Aviation Training School**  
**(Eagle, CO)**
- **Alaskan Environmental Training Center**  
**(Ft Greeley, AK)**

### \*\*Ranger School

**(Dahlonega, GA)**

### \*\*10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Mountain School

**(Ft Carson, CO)**

**\*\* Use various undeveloped Mountain Training locations**



# Topic #1—Current Capabilities



## United Kingdom (Royal Marines)

- Leverages US and Norwegian Mountain /Cold Weather Training Capabilities

## Norway (Norwegian Army)

- Allied Training Center - North (Harstad)
- Allied Training Center - South (Voss)
- Numerous Home-station Training Facilities

## Holland (Royal Dutch Marines)

- Leverages Scottish (various Mtn locations) and Norwegian Mountain/Cold Weather Training Capabilities

## Canada (Canadian Forces)

- Canadian Parachute Centre (Trenton, Ontario)
  - OPR for Advanced Mountain Course (various Rocky Mtn locations)
- Western Area Training Centre (Wainwright, Alberta)
  - OPR for Winter Warfare Instructor Course (high Arctic locations)



# Topic #2—Established Requirements



## Army Ground

- 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn Div and Alaskan units have Cold Weather requirement, but no Mountaineering Requirement.
- **Attendance at school is on a voluntary basis** - Mountaineering School in Vt (4 wks for Basic Skills Crs, and 4 wks for Aslt Climber Crs) provides students with an SQI—"E".
- 3rd BN 172 MTN (ARNG) has requirements for Mountain Training

## Navy

- **No formal requirement- Commander's prerogative** - Seal Trng- 3 weeks in Kodiak, AK during Trng pipeline. After SEALS join platoons they then may attend MCMWTC for 1-3 week packages..



# Topic #2—Established Requirements



## Marine Corps Ground

- MCMWTC has unit and individual training avail in Summer and Winter. Units may or may not get to either, depending on their TEEP. Neither training block is required for deployment.
- MEU(SOC) has requirement for 12 Assault Climber's per MEU(SOC) Battalion. Assault Climber Course at I MEF and II MEF SOTG and at MCMWTC
- Marine Corps has Summer & Winter ML Courses. Most infantry units have ML representation however, there is no requirement for an ML and there are no TO line #s for MLs except at formal schools.



# Topic #2—Established Requirements



## Army Aviation

- Army Aviation- informal guidance from Army G-3 that all Commanders, IP's and Unit Trainers will attend HAATS (1 or 2 wk course)
- SOCOM syllabus at Kirkland AFB has high altitude flying reqmts. But also uses HAATS
- HAATs - refresher reqmt. Every 3 years
- AFSOC PJs 171 personnel trained in MTN PR



# Topic #2—Established Requirements



## International

- All Dutch Marines are Mtn & Arctic Warfare Capable. Mtn package is 4 weeks. Arctic Warfare pkg is approx 5 weeks
- Canadian 1 Mtn Co per LtBN
- AFSOC PJs 171 personnel trained in MTN PR
- Norwegian focus on winter operations in the mountains



# Topic #2—Requirements Not Addressed



- COCOM Requirements
  - OPLANS/CONOPS
  - METL's
- Training environment out of context with operational requirements...METT-T
- MTN/Cold WX JTF staff expertise
- No planning or schools for operational level staffs.
- TRADOC 1995 identified 1209 "E" and never followed through
- Must train units in the cold weather environment prior to deployment
  - In theater or elsewhere
  - Concern for training in theater due to requirements of the war



# Topic #2—Requirements Not Addressed



- US Army
  - Unit skills in the environment need more attention
- Norwegian Army
  - Driver's Training in mountains/cold weather is critical
  - Combined Arms Training



# Topic #2—Requirements Not Addressed



- British Royal Marines
  - Standardized tri-service Mountain/Cold Weather Training Doctrine/Standard in development
  - Determine/Define the ratio of instructors
  - Altitude training (8k - 10k)
  - Need to train medical staff better with regards to cold/mountain injuries



# Topic #2—Requirements Not Addressed



- Marines
  - Caves, confined spaces, tunnels are a renewed requirement that is not being formally trained
  - Mountain – Urban environment
    - SASO training in mountainous village areas
    - Lethal versus non-lethal assault planning
  - Enhanced Marksman training in the mountainous environment
  - Mountain live-fire training
  - Mountain heavy equipment training
    - Artillery, tanks
  - Conventional - SOF interoperability
  - Increased air-ground fires/coordination in the mountains
  - Exploit use of simulation to support mountain training
- III MEF SOTG
  - Are not training mountain/cold weather skills due to locale



# Topic #2—Requirements Not Addressed



- Marines (cont)
  - Need more staff training/presence in the mountains
    - Crucial to appreciate the impact of mountain ops
  - Inject more realism with Forward Operating Bases in the mountains
  - Mountain convoy training
  - Fire Support Planning in the mountains
  - Operational level



# Topic #3—Gap Analysis



- Services do not have good SA on Mountain Warfare Training bases/stations
- Need to make training battlefield more asymmetrical/more complex
- Difficulty enforcing environmental realism
- Continue to improve responsiveness to applying lessons learned
- Leaning into standardizing technique, and some levels of training, while retaining service unique skillsets
- No shortcuts in training - be mindful of **training duration**
- Need to incorporate cold weather training into the standard PME school progression
- Need to be able to concurrently address individual/collective at the tactical/operational level



# Topic #3—Gap Analysis



- Need to focus on anticipated future deployments
- OPTEMPO=high, money=low – training is the first thing to be cut
- Standardization of environmental – multi-service and multinational
- More multi-service/multinational training – to include more exchange of members
- Combined arms training in the mountain environment
- Sustainment training
- Need work tracking our trained personnel and tying it into assignment policy



# Topic #3—Gap Analysis



- More air-ground training, large-caliber live fire in the mountains
- Targetry in mountain to support tactical and operational training
- Mountain urban interface training
- Better sharing of lessons learned
- Need to connect COCOM needs with training environment focus
- Joint MEDEVAC/CASEVAC training
- Exploit virtual/constructive/distributed opportunities to enhance training
- Lack of planning or schools for operational level staffs
- C2 integration is a shortfall; LNO/ExchangeO presence is needed



# Topic #3—Gap Analysis



- TRAP/CSAR integration
- CAS in the mountains
- Instrumentation should be exploited
- Lethal and Non-Lethal fires (PsyOps, CA, Cultural Education)
- CSS support
- Physical Fitness: More focus on endurance vice speed
- Joint tactical movements
- Communications training
- SOF integration
- Familiarity with interpreters
- FiST / TACP / CAS and JCAS
- Familiarity with Lat/Lon navigation



# Topic #3—Gap Analysis



- Insufficient interoperability to support appropriate doctrine, training and equipment fielding to achieve integrated capability.
  - Inter/intra service equipment commonality.
  - Closer cooperation in specific equipment development for cold weather and mountain operations.
  - Increase service exchange of instructors at mountain training sites/courses.



# Topic #3—Gap Analysis



- Formally recognize the requirement for high altitude and environmental training prior to unit commitment to combat operations.
- Services identify training requirements within the POM cycle and balance requirements with facilities and courses
- Current Training venues as resourced have Limited Output
- Synchronize scheduling between interoperable units
- Documentation of Training
  - Professional Development (Individual)
  - Unit Level (All personnel within the unit)
  - Joint/Interoperability (All personnel from All units involved in joint/interoperability training)



# Topic #3—Gap Analysis



- No SASO type villages or convoy lanes available in a mountainous environment
- No target sets or AAA threat simulators available in a mountainous environment
- MAWTS and Air Force Fighter Weapons School do not cross-talk with HAATS
- Little ability to teach CH-46/53 specifics at HAATS



# Topic #3—Gap Analysis



- Units are not taking advantage of expertise resident within other services and allied forces.
- Given current OPTEMPO deploying units are given insufficient time to effectively prepare and plan for their employment in a specific AOR
- No central repository for DOD Training facilities and capabilities
- Formally recognize the requirement for high altitude and environmental training prior to unit commitment to combat operations



# Topic #4--Solutions



- Identify an executive agent for doctrine and training in mountainous areas.
- Interim solution - Establish a joint mountain operations and training board to evaluate concepts, doctrine, training and material for mountain operations.
  - Integrate international partners into the joint mountain training board.
  - Conduct an annual joint mountain operations and training conference.
- Services identify mountain and cold weather operations personnel requirements within T/O-MTOE's.
- Services identify training requirements within the POM cycle and balance requirements with facilities and courses



# Topic #4--Solutions



- Encourage Services and utilize T2 funds to develop villages and convoy lanes at Mtn Warfare Centers
- Encourage Services and utilize T2 funds to develop target sets and AAA threat simulators within Mountain Warfare training areas
  - Outreach to aviation units
- Requirements for different Services would be facilitated by the establishment of permanent Service LNOs at Mountain Warfare Training Centers



# Topic #4--Solutions



- HAATS establish dialogue with MAWTS and AFSOC DOT.
- Tasking to Air Land Sea Applications Office to develop multi-service manual on Ground and Air Operations in Cold Weather and Mountainous environments
- Conduct training at entry level and career level schools on Mountain/CW training areas and facilities
- Concept of “Train as You Fight” reinforced to senior leadership, I.E., mountain training for OEF-designated units
- Units notified in sufficient time to develop and execute a training program tailored to the operational area



# Topic #4--Solutions



- Formal requirement for environment training pre-deployment will force use of applicable facilities.
  - Consider making requirements part of deployment order process
  - Ensure sufficient funding and manning to implement
- Consider exchange program between MAWTS-1, AFSOC and HAATS
- .



# Topic #4--Solutions



- Use military training vice ‘Rogue Training’
  - **Military mule packing vice using civilian contracting**
  - **HAATs vice civilian helicopter contracts**
- JFCOM and Service Components need to work more closely with COCOMs to identify unit requirements and unit skill set pre-requisites.
- More emphasis on aligning Joint METLs and Joint Training Plans promulgated to Service force providers
- Greater analysis of Joint Tactical Tasks as it pertains to addressing the requirements above.
- JFCOM should establish a website or office of primary responsibility (OPR) which provides contact information on specific environments/ training venues



# Topic #4--Solutions



- SA, Education & Standardization
  - Examine exchange program
  - Search for opportunities to increase exposure/use
  - Small Unit Exchange
  - Propose an Annual Mountain Warfare Conference (Joint Sponsored)
  - More timely & prolific sharing of lessons learned (Joint & Allied)
    - Consider information sharing mechanisms at the Joint Level
    - Consider working groups
  - Increase opportunities for policy-maker site-visits to mountain training venues to increase understanding of mountain and environmental training



# Topic #4--Solutions



- Consider assigning additional MOS for Mountain Leaders and Assault Climbers(USMC)
- Conduct an annual joint mountain operations and training conference



# Topic #4--Solutions



- Realistic Training
  - Evaluate appropriate use of Live, Virtual, and Constructive training opportunities
    - Live
      - Ground & Air Instrumentation, MILES, SESAMS
      - Targetry, Emitters, Battlefield effects
      - Live Fire combined arms training in the mountains
    - Virtual
      - Individual and team skills (TACP, FiST)
      - Aviation
      - Networked trainers for unit/team training
    - Constructive
      - Representation of live forces via instrumentation
      - Distributed training via network
      - C4I impact
    - After Action Review
      - Ground versus Perceived truth
    - Realistic training while deployed



# Topic #4--Solutions



- Conventional/SOF Interoperability
  - Increase SOF/Conventional training area dual-use
    - Scheduling
    - Familiarity
  - Increase exchange of personnel/units at other services/allies' schools/training centers
- Need to balance Operational Risk Management vs. Realistic Trng
  - Environmental considerations need to be part of Readiness Reporting



## Leadership under winter conditions (1)

- The winter is relentless and unforgiving for the unprepared
- Details are extremely important
- Good small unit leadership is a key to success, especially when soldiers are tired, wet, cold and stop paying attention to crucial details
- The individual must learn to live with the snow, the cold and changing weather conditions, otherwise he may panic when the going gets tough
- Some survival equipment you just do not leave behind - you never know when you need it
- The buddy principle is important - always be two together who feel responsible for each other.

## Leadership under winter conditions (2)

- When using LTVs off road always be two vehicles together
- Frost injuries come quickly, especially when riding ski-doos, but may
- Dehydration is a challenge even during winter
- It is possible to move under quite bad conditions, but you must know and you must know when to stop.
- Maintenance - as always - critical. When using LTVs each man regardless of rank must have basic skills in maintenance and some frequent repair.
- Map, compass, GPS critical for both survival and mobility. In some units map - reading skills are mandatory for everybody.





# Way Ahead



- Brief outcome of workshop to T2 SAG
  - Recommend establishment of a JIIM Mountain/CW Training Board
- Consider briefing outcome of workshop to SROC
- Develop a Mountain/CW strategic communication plan
- Develop a joint overarching Mountain/CW training strategy
  - Establish better connectivity with COCOM
  - Look to JNTC for operational and tactical level venues/joint context
- Schedule annual Mountain/CW workshops



# QUESTIONS

